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MERKEL FAMILY FOUNDATION  
Fall 2017 | Distinguished Lecture Series

presents

**Emily C. Burns, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Auburn University, Auburn, AL



Film still from *Prairie en feu*, directed by Jean Durand, distributed by Gaumont, 1912

## THE AMERICAN WEST IN THE CAMARGUE: *Film, Material Culture and Regionalist Primitivism, c. 1912*

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**7 p.m. Friday, September 29, 2017**

open to the public with no admission charge

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**Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium**

Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art  
555 Elm Ave., Norman, OK 73019-3003  
in the OU Arts District

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Celebrating our

**20th  
Anniversary**

1998-2018



**CHARLES M.  
RUSSELL CENTER**  
for the Study of Art of the American West

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For more information or for accommodations, please call the Russell Center at (405) 325-5939.

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## **The American West in the Camargue: Film, Material Culture and Regionalist Primitivism, c. 1912**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sharon Burchett

(405) 325-5939; russellcenter@ou.edu

NORMAN, OKLA. (September 8, 2017) – Emily C. Burns, PhD and Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Art History, Auburn University, Alabama, will deliver a public lecture titled “*The American West in the Camargue: Film, Material Culture and Regionalist Primitivism, c. 1912*,” on **Friday, September 29, at 7 p.m., in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art**, 555 Elm Ave., in the *OU Arts District*. The illustrated lecture is open to the public with no admission charge and is presented by the OU School of Visual Arts’ Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West, as part of the Merkel Family Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series.

Professor Burns is the author of the book, *Transnational Frontiers: the American West in the French Imagination*, forthcoming from the University of Oklahoma Press as part of the Charles M. Russell Center Series on Art and Photography of the American West. Professor Burns will address connections between art and popular culture in early 20<sup>th</sup> century visual representations of the American West and Native Americans from French, U.S., and Native American perspectives.

“In 1912, French director Jean Durand released *Prairie en feu (Prairie on Fire)*, a film that recreated a US frontier village in the Camargue, a rural region in the south of France. While the film's portrayal of settlers and Indians might be seen as performing stereotypical myths of the American West, this talk unravels its constellation of referents in dialogues with Lakota performers of Buffalo Bill's Wild West, American Indian art and material culture, and the photographs of Edward Curtis. These visual culture cues reveal the film's interventions in regional politics in Provence and in the politics of US-Lakota relations by unpacking the investments in the West by two of its influential figures, French aristocrat Folco de Baroncelli and actor Joë Hamman.”

Founded in 1998, the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West is the first such university-based program in the nation. The center is dedicated to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge in the field of American art history as it relates to the western United States. Through its resource holdings, national symposia, lecture series, course offerings and

outreach programs, the Russell Center actively engages students and the public in developing a better understanding of, and appreciation for, 19th- and 20th-century Euro-American and Native American artistic traditions. Special focus is given to the art of Charles M. Russell and his contemporaries. For more information on the Russell Center, visit the resources section of [art.ou.edu](http://art.ou.edu). For accommodations on the basis of disability, call (405) 325-5939.

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**Editors:** please find attached accompanying images with the following credit information:  
Film still from *Prairie en feu*, directed by Jean Durand, distributed by Gaumont, 1912

